

REMARKS

Claim 21 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 21 may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 24 remain pending.

In the Office Action dated September 14, 2006, claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,938). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 21 recites a device manufacturing method that includes, *inter alia*, “moving said substrate with an article handler provided in an article support during placement of said substrate on or removal of said substrate from said article support, said article handler having an electrostatic clamp.” Hara et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 21.

Hara et al. discloses a mask supporting device that includes an electrostatic chuck (2) for attracting a mask (1). *See* Hara et al. at col. 5, Ins. 3-4. Hara et al. does not disclose or suggest that any part of the mask supporting device is configured to move the mask during placement of the mask on or removal of the mask from the electrostatic chuck.

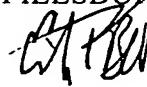
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over Hara et al., and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 21 be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1-15, 17, 18, 22, and 24 have been allowed. All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains at issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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